

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-04 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-04 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 FEAE-00

AID-05 OES-03 EA-06 AGR-05 SWF-01 INT-05 STR-01 /088 W

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R 241149Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1769

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 2994

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CE, IR

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER'S PROSPECTIVE VISIT TO IRAN

REF: COLOMBO 2458

1. PRIME MINISTER SIRIMAVO BANDARANAIKE LEAVES COLOMBO
OCTOBER 27 FOR OFFICIAL VISIT TO IRAN WHICH WILL END
OCTOBER 30. PRESS REPORTS HERE INDICATE TALKS DURING
VISIT WILL BE CONFINED MAINLY TO IRANIAN FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA AND MRS. BANDARANAIKE'S INDIAN
OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE (IOPZ) PROPOSAL. SECRETARY OF
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MDFA)
W.T. JAYASINGHE AND MDFA DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
ELMO SENEVRATNE LEFT COLOMBO OCTOBER 21 AS ADVANCE
PARTY. JUSTICE MINISTER FELIX DIAS BANDARANAIKE, WHO
HAD TALKS WITH IRANIANS RE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE DURING
AUGUST VISIT TO TEHRAN, AND SECRETARY OF PLANNING
MINISTRY H.A. DE S. GUNASEKERA WILL BE AMONG THOSE IN
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PM'S PARTY. ACCORDING TO PRESS, TWO-YEAR-OLD,

THREE-FEET,EIGHT-INCH-HIGH BABY ELEPHANT WILL ALSO
ACCOMPANY MRS. BANDARANAIKE TO BE SURPRISE BIRTHDAY
GIFT FOR CROWN PRINCE REZA.

2. COMMENT: CEYLONESE ARE HOPING PRIME MINISTER
BANDARANAIKE WILL BE ABLE TO SIGN VARIOUS AGREEMENTS
TO BEGIN FLOW OF SUBSTANTIAL IRANIAN FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA. SHOULD HOPE BE FULFILLED, IT
WOULD BE SECOND INSTANCE OF CEYLONESE RECEIVING
ASSISTANCE FROM OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES, FIRST BEING
21 MILLION DOLLAR KUWAITI CREDIT.

3. VISIT WILL ALSO HELP SMOOTH CEYLONESE FEATHERS WHICH ERE
SLIGHTLY RUFFLED BY SHAH'S OMISSION OF SRI LANKA FROM NATIONS
HE PROPOSED AT SEPTEMBER 19 SINGAPORE BANQUET SHOULD
GROUP THEMSELVES TOGETHER TO PROMOTE SECURITY AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN REGION. THERE HAS BEEN
SOME SPECULATION AND PUZZLEMENT HERE AS TO
WHETHER OMISSION WAS MEANT TO BE DELIBERATE SNUB.
SHAH'S FAILURE MENTION
SRI LANKA WAS ALSO QUESTIONED
IN NATIONAL STATE ASSEMBLY. JUSTICE MINISTER REPLIED
THAT COUNTRIES LISTED WERE THOSE THAT EITHER HAD DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS WITH BOTH IRAN AND IRAQ, OR WITH NEITHER
(CEYLONESE AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN IS CONCURRENTLY ACCREDITED
TO IRAN). JUSTICE MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT IRAN PERHAPS
WANTED RESIDENT CEYLONESE DIPLOMATIC MISSION AS IS CASE IN
IRAQ, BEFORE ASKING SRI LANKA TO BE MEMBER OF REGIONAL
UNION. FOR CEYLONESE DIFFERENCE IN PAST HAS BEEN THAT
IRAQ IS THIRD LARGEST MARKET FOR CEYLON TEA WHILE TRADE WITH
IRAN HAS BEEN VERY SMALL.
VAN HOLLEN

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